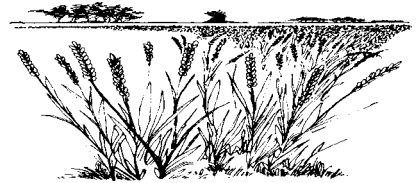


California Field Crop Review



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MARCH 1, 2003 PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

The California March intentions estimates were based on a survey of nearly 2,000 California farmers. The survey was conducted March 1-15, but referred to farmers' intentions on March 1. Therefore, the impact of weather or market conditions since that date is not reflected in this report.

COTTON: On March 1, **California** farmers were intending to plant 540 thousand acres to Upland cotton in 2003. If realized, this would be 13 percent above the acreage seeded in 2002. In addition, growers were expecting to seed 170 thousand acres to American-Pima cotton in 2003, 19 percent below the 210 thousand acres planted last year. **Nationally**, all cotton plantings for 2003 are expected to total 14.3 million acres, up 2 percent from last year.

CORN: **California** farmers were expected to plant 520 thousand acres of corn for all purposes in 2003, 5 percent below last year. **U.S.** corn growers intend to plant 79.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2003, virtually unchanged from last year.

OATS: On March 1, farmers in **California** had planted or expected to plant 250 thousand acres of oats, down 4 percent from last year. **U.S.** producers planned to seed 4.83 million acres, down 4 percent from last year's planted area. Growers expect to harvest 2.20 million acres for grain, 5 percent more than the 2002 harvested acreage of 2.10 million.

WHEAT: In **California**, winter wheat has been seeded on 610 thousand acres, 15 percent above the previous year. Another 100 thousand acres have been seeded to Durum wheat, 5 percent above the 95.0 thousand acres seeded for 2002. At the **U.S.** level, 2003's all wheat planted area is expected to total 61.7 million acres, up 2 percent from 2002. Winter wheat seedings are estimated at 44.3 million acres, up 6 percent from the previous year's acreage. Durum wheat producers planned to seed 2.83 million acres, a decrease of 3 percent from last year.

RICE: **California** farmers intended to seed rice on 530 thousand acres as of March 1. This figure is 1 percent less than the 533 thousand acres seeded in 2002. The expressed intentions were to seed 500 thousand acres to medium grain varieties, 5.00 thousand to long grain, and 25.0 thousand to short grain varieties. Last year, farmers seeded 500 thousand acres to medium grain, 7.00 thousand to long grain, and 26.0 thousand to short grain varieties. **Nationally**, growers intended to seed 3.04 million acres this year, down 6 percent from 2002.

BARLEY: On March 1, **California** farmers had planted or intended to plant 130 thousand acres to barley, the same as the previous year. **U.S.** growers intended to seed 5.38 million acres for 2003, up 6 percent from a year ago.

SUGAR BEETS: **California** producers had planted or intended to plant 50.5 thousand acres of sugar beets as of March 1. This is 1 percent more than 2002. **Nationally**, the area planted to sugar beets for the 2003 crop year is expected to total 1.40 million acres, 2 percent below the 2002 crop year.

BEANS, DRY EDIBLE: On March 1, seeding of dry edible beans was planned for 80.0 thousand acres in **California**. This would be 13 percent less than the 92.0 thousand acres seeded last year. **Nationally**, farmers intend to plant 1.52 million acres of dry edible beans in 2003, down 21 percent from last year.

ALL HAY: **California** producers intended to harvest hay from 1.46 million acres as of March 1, 11 percent below the 1.64 million acres harvested last year. **U.S.** producers expect to harvest 63.6 million acres of hay in 2003, down 1 percent from the 64.5 million acres harvested in 2002.

POTATOES, SWEET: **California** growers intend to plant 10.1 thousand acres in 2003, 3 percent below 2002. **U.S.** growers intend to plant 93.5 thousand acres of sweet potatoes this year, down 4 percent from last year.

CALIFORNIA AND U.S. FIELD CROPS

Crop	2001	2002	Indicated 2003	2003 2002
	1,000 Acres			Percent
Wheat, Winter ^{1/}				
California	530.0	530.0	610.0	115
U.S.	41,078.0	41,735.0	44,308.0	106
Wheat, Durum				
California ^{1/}	85.0	95.0	100.0	105
U.S.	2,910.0	2,909.0	2,833.0	97
Oats ^{1/}				
California	260.0	260.0	250.0	96
U.S.	4,403.0	5,005.0	4,828.0	96
Barley ^{1/}				
California	160.0	130.0	130.0	100
U.S.	4,967.0	5,073.0	5,379.0	106
Corn, All				
California	480.0	545.0	520.0	95
U.S.	75,752.0	79,054.0	79,022.0	100
Rice				
California:				
All	473.0	533.0	530.0	99
Long	13.0	7.0	5.0	71
Medium	435.0	500.0	500.0	100
Short	25.0	26.0	25.0	96
U.S.:				
All	3,334.0	3,240.0	3,038.0	94
Long	2,713.0	2,537.0	2,300.0	91
Medium	595.0	676.0	711.0	105
Short	26.0	27.0	27.0	100
Cotton, Upland				
California	630.0	480.0	540.0	113
U.S.	15,498.5	13,719.0	14,053.0	102
Cotton, Amer.-Pima				
California	240.0	210.0	170.0	81
U.S.	270.0	243.6	200.0	82
Beans, Dry Edible ^{2/}				
California	88.0	92.0	80.0	87
U.S.	1,435.9	1,922.1	1,522.8	79
Sugar Beets				
California ^{3/}	46.6	50.0	50.5	101
U.S. ^{4/}	1,370.5	1,427.9	1,399.3	98
Hay, All ^{5/}				
California	1,540.0	1,640.0	1,460.0	89
U.S.	63,521.0	64,497.0	63,552.0	99
Potatoes, Sweet				
California	10.0	10.4	10.1	97
U.S.	99.1	97.2	93.5	96

^{1/} Includes area planted in preceding fall.

^{2/} Excludes beans grown for garden seed.

^{3/} Relates to year of intended harvest for fall planted beets in central California and to year of planting for overwintered beets in central and southern California.

^{4/} Relates to year of intended harvest in all states, except California.

^{5/} Area harvested.

CALIFORNIA FIELD CROP PRICES - MARCH 2003

Mid-March prices received by California farmers increased from February for dry edible beans. All potatoes, winter potatoes, fall potatoes, and all types of hay were below the previous month. Mid-month prices for wheat, barley, and Upland cotton lint were not published to avoid possible disclosure of individual operations. Prices were above a year earlier for fall potatoes. Dry edible beans remained the same as the previous year. All potatoes, winter potatoes, and all types of hay were below March 2002's level.

U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX UNCHANGED FROM LAST MONTH

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March is 99, based on 1990-92=100, unchanged from the February index. Higher prices for tomatoes, onions, oranges, and chicken eggs offset lower prices for cattle, dairy, strawberries, and wheat. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past three-year average, also affect the overall index. Increased average marketings for strawberries, tomatoes, dairy, and asparagus offset decreases for cattle, cotton, corn, and oranges.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is down seven points (6.6 percent) from March 2002. Lower prices for lettuce, strawberries, potatoes, and celery more than offset higher prices for soybeans, corn, onions, and broilers.

The March All Crops Index is 106, up 2.9 percent from February, but down 9.4 percent from March 2002. From February, index increases for commercial vegetables, fruits and nuts, and potatoes and dry beans more than offset the index decreases for tobacco, food grains, and cotton.

The March Food Grains Index, at 100, is 3.8 percent below the previous month, but 18 percent above March 2002. The March all wheat price, at \$116.33 per ton, is down \$6.34 from February, but \$20.66 above March 2002.

The March Feed Grains & Hay Index is 105, down 0.9 percent from last month, but 15 percent above March 2002. The corn price, at \$82.14 per ton, is down \$1.43 from last month, but \$12.85 above March 2002. The all hay price, at \$92.80 per ton, is \$1.00 above February and 50 cents greater than last March. Grain sorghum, at \$3.97 per cwt., is down 17 cents from February, but 74 cents above March last year.

The March Cotton Index, at 73, is 2.7 percent below February, but 55 percent above March 2002. The March price, at 44.5 cents per pound, is down 0.7 cents from the previous month, but 16.1 cents above last March.

The March Potatoes & Dry Beans Index, at 113, is up 1.8 percent from last month, but 22 percent below March 2002. The all potato price, at \$6.87 per cwt., is up 32 cents from February, but \$1.39 below last March. The all dry bean price, at \$15.50 per cwt., is down \$3.90 from the previous month and \$11.60 below March 2002.

FARM PRICES: AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS 1/

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		March 2002	February 2003	March 2003	March 2002	February 2003	March 2003
		Dollars					
Corn <u>2/</u>	Tons	---	---	---	69.29	83.57	82.14
Wheat <u>2/</u>	Tons	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>	95.67	122.67	116.33
Oats <u>2/</u>	Tons	---	---	---	124.38	130.63	121.25
Barley <u>2/</u>	Tons	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>	90.42	119.58	121.67
Sorghum Grain <u>2/</u>	Cwt.	---	---	---	3.23	4.14	3.97
Rice <u>2/</u>	Cwt.	---	---	---	3.99	4.03	4.05
Dry Edible Beans <u>2/</u>	Cwt.	32.70	32.60	32.70	27.10	19.40	15.50
All Potatoes <u>4/</u>	Cwt.	15.70	17.00	15.00	8.26	6.55	6.87
Winter	Cwt.	28.10	23.90	22.50	---	---	---
Spring	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Summer	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Fall	Cwt.	8.40	8.65	8.60	---	---	---
All Hay, Baled	Tons	123.00	101.00	95.00	92.30	91.80	92.80
Alfalfa Hay, Baled	Tons	126.00	102.00	97.00	99.60	96.40	96.20
Other Hay, Baled	Tons	100.00	87.00	81.00	72.70	79.40	82.30
Upland Cotton Lint <u>2/</u>	Lbs	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>	0.284	0.452	0.445
Cottonseed	Tons	---	130.00	---	---	111.00	---

1/ The estimated prices shown in the table represent composite average prices received by farmers. They are averages for all grades, classes, and methods of sale of each commodity for the State and U.S. as a whole.

2/ Previous month revised to monthly average.

3/ Not published to avoid possible disclosure of operations.

4/ Monthly average.

INDEX NUMBER OF PRICES RECEIVED AND PRICES PAID BY FARMERS, UNITED STATES

Index	1910-14 = 100			1990-92 = 100		
	March 2002	February 2003	March 2003	March 2002	February 2003	March 2003
Prices Received						
All Farm Products	671	628 1/	630	106	99	99
All Crops	579	510	522	117	103	106
Food Grains	270	331 1/	317	85	104 1/	100
Feed Grains and Hay	327	380 1/	376	91	106 1/	105
Cotton	240	382 1/	376	47	75 1/	73
Potatoes and Dry Edible Beans	736	561 1/	571	145	111 1/	113
Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities,						
Services, Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates 2/	1,637	1,701 1/	1,707	123	128 1/	128
Parity Ratio 3/	41	37	37	86	77 1/	77

1/ Revised.

2/ All production indexes as of 15th of month.

3/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

GRAIN STOCKS

On March 1, 2003, **California** wheat stocks in all positions were 9 percent below a year earlier. Barley off-farm stocks were 28 percent below March 2002. Off-farm corn stocks decreased 21 percent. Oats totaled 3.76 thousand tons and sorghum grain totaled 3.16 thousand tons in California off-farm storage facilities as of March 1. **U.S.** wheat stocks in all positions were 25 percent below a year earlier as of March 1. Corn stocks were down 11 percent, and barley stocks were down 13 percent. U.S. oat stocks in all positions totaled 1.32 million tons and sorghum grain stocks totaled 4.56 million tons.

GRAIN STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS

(Includes stocks under support and government owned grain.)

Grain and Position	Mar. 1, 2002	Dec. 1, 2002	Mar. 1, 2003
	Tons		
ALL WHEAT			
California			
On-Farm	18,000	57,000	24,000
Off-Farm 1/	350,520	459,450	311,190
Total	368,520	516,450	335,190
U.S. Total	36,293,040	39,596,070	27,146,010
BARLEY			
California			
Off-Farm 1/ 2/	44,400	32,880	32,064
U.S. Total	3,401,952	4,080,024	2,964,312
OATS			
California			
Off Farm 1/ 2/	1,520	4,624	3,760
U.S. Total	1,493,728	1,660,544	1,319,008
CORN			
California			
Off-Farm 1/ 2/	261,156	251,720	207,228
U.S. Total	162,267,364	213,863,188	143,704,904
SORGHUM GRAIN			
California			
Off-Farm 1/ 2/	2,184	4,816	3,164
U.S. Total	5,434,996	6,491,856	4,558,736

1/ Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors.

2/ California on-farm stocks and total stocks for barley, corn, oats and sorghum are included in United States totals.

OFF-FARM RICE STOCKS

Stocks of milled rice stored in **California** mills and warehouses on March 1, 2003 totaled 2.08 million cwt. This was 125 percent above the 925 thousand cwt. stored a year earlier. Whole kernels accounted for 58 percent of the total milled rice in storage. **Nationally**, milled rice stocks in all positions totaled 6.63 million cwt. on March 1, 38 percent above last year.

California rough rice stocks in all positions totaled 22.2 million cwt. on March 1. This was 8 percent below the 24.1 million cwt. on hand a year earlier. Warehouses accounted for 18.6 million cwt. with the remainder in mill storage.

ROUGH AND MILLED RICE STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS

Type of Rice	CALIFORNIA		UNITED STATES	
	Mar. 1, 2002	Mar. 1, 2003	Mar. 1, 2002	Mar. 1, 2003
	1,000 Cwt.			
ROUGH RICE TOTAL	24,091	22,241	113,508	102,578
Long Grain 1/	---	---	83,723	75,733
Medium Grain	22,212	20,564	28,515	25,529
Short Grain 1/	---	---	1,270	1,316
MILLED RICE TOTAL	925	2,084	4,813	6,627
Whole Kernels Total	552	1,207	3,954	5,066
Long Grain	18	15	3,222	3,656
Medium Grain	424	1,134	622	1,351
Short Grain	110	58	110	59
Broken Kernels Total	373	877	859	1,561
Second Heads 2/	352	800	648	1,190
Screenings	---	---	139	146
Brewers	21	77	72	225

1/ California data not published to avoid disclosure of individual reports.

2/ California figure includes screenings.

CALIFORNIA ROUGH RICE STOCKS

Month	Season		
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
	1,000 Cwt.		
December 1	37,309	36,051	36,759
March 1	24,356	24,091	22,241
August 1	10,296	8,213	---
October 1 (Carryover) 1/	5,914	3,488	---

1/ Small amount of on-farm stocks included in off-farm total.

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND APRIL 1 STOCKS

As of April 1, 2003, California fall potato stocks were double last year's holdings with 600 thousand cwt. Stocks represented 13 percent of the 2002 fall production, compared to 21 percent of the previous year.

The 15 major potato storage states held 125 million cwt. of potatoes on April 1, 2003, up 4 percent from last year, but 19 percent below 2001. Storage accounts for 30 percent of the 2002 fall storage states' production, down 1 percent from last year. Disappearance, at 286 million cwt., from the start of harvest in 2002 to April 1 is up 7 percent from the same period last year, but 6 percent below two years ago. Processors in the nine major states

used 145 million cwt. of potatoes this season, up 10 percent from a year ago, but 4 percent below two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 31.9 million cwt. of the total processing.

Western states held 93.9 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on April 1, up 7 percent from last year, but 21 percent below two years ago. Idaho's potato stocks are up 9 percent from last year, while Colorado's were up 30 percent. Washington's potato stocks are 2 percent above last year, but Oregon's storage was down 12 percent. Montana's stocks are up 1 percent from a year ago.

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND APRIL 1 STOCKS BY STATE 1/

State	Crop of 2001			Crop of 2002		
	Production	Total Stocks	Percent of	Production	Total Stocks	Percent of
		Apr. 1, 2002 2/	Production		Apr. 1, 2003 2/	Production
	1,000 Cwt.			1,000 Cwt.		
			Percent			Percent
California	1,424	300	21	4,450	600	13
Colorado	21,357	7,300	34	27,885	9,500	34
Idaho	120,200	45,000	37	133,385	49,000	37
Maine	16,430	5,300	32	16,960	6,300	37
Michigan	13,950	1,500	11	13,878	2,800	20
Minnesota	18,425	6,100	33	18,700	6,100	33
Montana	3,296	1,790	54	3,224	1,800	56
Nebraska	8,400	---	---	8,611	---	---
New York	5,942	300	5	5,500	300	5
North Dakota	26,400	10,400	39	23,460	7,000	30
Ohio	1,097	---	---	1,008	---	---
Oregon	20,730	8,500	41	24,936	7,500	30
Pennsylvania	3,173	300	9	2,590	350	14
Washington	94,400	25,000	26	95,200	25,500	27
Wisconsin	31,955	6,700	21	31,125	6,200	20
Other States	---	1,460	---	---	2,080	---
15-STATE TOTAL	387,179	119,950	31	410,912	125,030	30

1/ Stocks include processor holdings and seed to plant 2003 potatoes; 2002 crop seed usage totaled 29.3 million cwt.

2/ Nebraska and Ohio combined into "Other States."

POTATO ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION

California's 2003 winter potato production forecast is 2.79 million cwt., up 15 percent from a year ago. The area for harvest, at 9.00 thousand acres, remained the same as the previous year. The average yield is 310 cwt. per acre, 15 percent above last year. Harvesting of winter potatoes has made normal progress. No major problems with pests, diseases, or adverse weather have been observed, and crop condition is reported to be good. Spring production, at 7.79 million cwt., is 1 percent above last year. Planting has progressed normally, and the crop appears to be on schedule. Conditions have been reported as good-to-excellent so far, with no major problems noted. California's 2002 summer potato planted and harvested acreage are estimated at 7.30 thousand acres, down 9 percent from the previous year's final acreage estimate. A heat wave in July caused some minor harvesting delays in the Stockton-Delta area, but otherwise harvesting progressed normally. Quality for all summer varieties was reported to be good.

Nationally, the 2003 winter potato production is estimated at 4.15 million cwt., the same as the January forecast, but 1 percent below last year. Area for harvest, at 14.8 thousand acres, is down 6 percent from a year ago. The average yield of 281 cwt. per acre is up 13 cwt. from a year ago. Spring production in 2003 is forecast at 23.7 million cwt., up 2 percent from last year. Area for harvest is estimated at 83.8 thousand acres, down 3 percent from 2002. The average yield is forecast at 282 cwt. per acre, up 11 cwt. from a year ago. The final production estimate for the 2002 U.S. summer potato crop is 18.0 million cwt., down 3 percent from the preliminary estimate in the January Annual Crop Production Summary, and 1 percent below 2001.

POTATO ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION

State	Planted Acres		Harvested Acres		Yield		Production	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	1,000 Acres				Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.	
WINTER								
California	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	270	310	2,430	2,790
Florida	6.8	6.0	6.7	5.8	265	235	1,776	1,363
U.S. Total	15.8	15.0	15.7	14.8	268	281	4,206	4,153
SPRING								
Arizona	7.8	8.0	7.8	8.0	270	280	2,106	2,240
California	19.0	19.0	19.0	19.0	405	410	7,695	7,790
Florida	27.0	28.0	26.3	27.3	300	286	7,883	7,817
Hastings	19.5	19.5	19.0	19.0	315	300	5,985	5,700
Other	7.5	8.5	7.3	8.3	260	255	1,898	2,117
No. Carolina	21.5	18.0	21.0	17.0	170	165	3,570	2,805
Texas	12.5	13.0	12.0	12.5	170	240	2,040	3,000
U.S. Total	87.8	86.0	86.1	83.8	271	282	23,294	23,652
SUMMER 1/								
California	7.3	---	7.3	---	360	---	2,628	---
Colorado	6.4	---	6.3	---	360	---	2,268	---
Texas	8.8	---	8.3	---	400	---	3,320	---
U.S. Total	62.2	---	59.1	---	304	---	17,985	---

1/ Revised data for 2002.